

Extract from Interrogation of (Marquis)
KIDO, Yoichi - 7 February 1946, pg. 251

Q When did the military group start thinking in terms of expansion in China, territorially? Approximately - I realize you don't know the exact date?

A I don't believe such a feeling existed until the outbreak of the China Incident and there was opposition among the military to the effect that as long as Manchuria is not as yet settled and developed, we should not get involved in China.

Q It was a long-range plan in the military faction that after Manchuria had been properly controlled and brought into the Japanese sphere of influence, the militarists then would move into China. Was that it?

A There were certain persons discussing to that effect but I don't believe there actually was a plan.

Q And those that were discussing that were Chief of Staff officers, were they?

A I do not know but I believe that those young officers of which I previously mentioned had such an idea.

Q The most outspoken all through those days were the younger officers? Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Was HASHIMOTO one of them?

A Yes.

Q And the other ones who stand out in your mind are who?

A MUTO, SHIGETO and such persons as that.

Q Those three men, then, SHIGETO, MUTO and HASHIMOTO? Those three?

A Yes.